the way of permanently establishing these people as peasant cultivators. In olden times these men were attached to the land as field labourers cared for by the landlords who provided for them in kind. When land is now registered in their names, they find it difficult to realise that it is their own property and it takes very little inducement for them to part with it for what in their eyes is a very large sum of money. It has therefore been laid down that land so registered is inalienable without the previous sanction of the Government and resumptions because of alienation have been necessary. Leaders of these communities have suggested to me that outright registration with ownership rights may be replaced by a system of long-term leaseholds. This suggestion is being examined.

Salt.

6. In my address last year I expressed a hope that the whole of the salt consumed in the State might be produced in the State. In 1103, the total amount of salt consumed in the State was 1,181,124 maunds, roughly twenty-one pounds per head of the present estimated population. Home-manufactured salt rose from 678,380 maunds in 1102 to 987,515 maunds in 1103, the yield per acre of salt pans within the State increasing from 1,934 maunds to 2,993 maunds. This increase both in yield per acre and in total production was due to a partial failure of the monsoon in South Travancore resulting in more dry days when evaporation was possible. Thus, what was an unfavourable season for agriculture was a favourable season for salt manufacture.

Trade.

7. As I have just said, cultivation in South Travancore more particularly paddy cultivation, suffered through a shortage of rain ; and larger imports of paddy and rice from outside became necessary. In other respects, trade conditions were generally favourable. The total value of external trade which was Rs. 16·21 crores in 1101 rose to Rs. 17·57 crores in 1102 and reached Rs. 20·08 crores in 1103. The percentage of exports to the total external trade was 63 in 1101 ; it rose to 65 in 1102, and fell to 59 in 1103. The percentage of imports to the total external trade was 37 in 1101, 35 in 1102 and rose sharply to 41 in 1103. Seaborne trade represented 31 per cent of the total external trade. 39 per cent of the trade was carried by backwater, 20 per cent by road and 10 per cent by railway. The distribution of imports in value among the population according to the census of 1921 was Rs. 20·6 per head and of exports Rs 29·5 per head. The balance of trade in favour of the State was thus Rs. 8·9 per head. On the present estimated population of 4,400,000, these figures would respectively be Rs. 18·7, Rs. 26·8 and Rs. 8·1. The value of exports of the produce of the cocoanut palm, both raw and manufactured, amounted in 1102 to Rs. 387 lakhs and in 1103 to Rs. 369 lakhs. The pepper exported fell from 43,184 candies* in 1102 to 34,124 candies in 1103 ; but although there was this decrease in quantity,

* Candy = 500 lbs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly